Distribution of power to private parties

†893. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that distribution of power has been handed over to private parties in most of the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that despite privatization the problems of the public are intact;

(d) whether it is also a fact that transmission/electrification has also been affected adversely after privatization; and

(e) if so, the action being taken by Government to overcome these problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Private distribution companies have been operating smoothly over a period of time in some parts of the country namely Calcutta Electric Supply Company (CESE) in Kolkata, Ahmedabad Electricity Company Ltd. in Ahmedabad, Surat Electricity Company Ltd. in Surat, TATA Power Company, Bombay Suburban Electric Supply Company Ltd. in Mumbai, Noida Power Company in Greater Noida.

The distribution in Orissa was privatized in 1999. In Delhi distribution has been privatized in July, 2002. It is expected that with greater efficiency quality of power supply and consumer satisfaction would gradually improve.

Study on fluorosis in drinking water

894. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has commissioned a study on the extent of fluorosis and has decided to launch a special programme to tackle the problem as part of a Rs. 12,545 crore plan to provide drinking water to all villages by 2004;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) if so, whether Government has examined this study report;

(c) if so, to what extent the amount earmarked in the Tenth Plan for rural-development programmes on drinking water has been utilized; and

(d) to what extent the target set for 2004 will be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) and (b) Drinking Water Supply is a State subject. The Government of India supplement the efforts of the States in ensuring drinking water supply to all rural habitations by providing assistance to State under a Centrally Sponsored Programme called Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) 15% of the funds released under ARWSP are meant for Submission pogrammes to tackle quality problems in drinking water including those created due to excess fluoride, based on the surveys and studies conducted.

(c) An amount of Rs. 2100.70 crore during 2002-03 and Rs. 1472.75 crore during 2003-04 (upto 30.11.2003) has been released to States under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP).

(d) With reference to the coverage position available on 1.4.1999 and subsequent coverage reported by the States, as on 28.11.2003, there are 8.889 Not Covered (NC) habitations and 83,587 Partially Covered (PC) habitations out of total number of 14,22,664 rural habitations in the country. The State Governments have already been requested to cover all the remaining habitations by 2004.

People benefited under N.F.B.S.

†895. SMT. KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people benefited district-wise during the last three years under the National Family Benefit Scheme (N.F.B.S.) of Central Government in different districts of Bihar in lieu of natural deaths and death by accidents;

(b) the details of the benefits given in each case to the families of the deceased under this scheme; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.